

Individual Residential Wells and Irrigation Wells

Well Standards

- Before 1985 Pollution Control Act
- June 1985 Well Standards
- August 1999 Permitting Regulation
- April 2002 Revised Well Standards

Existing Wells

- Does the well meet the well standards?
- Does the well work?
- How is the Water Quality?

What SCDHEC looks for

- Grout
- 12" above ground
- ID tag
- Wellhead Sealed
- Sampling Spigot
- Distance from contaminate source





Same regulations apply to irrigation wells





Distance from contaminate sources

- Property lines and buildings 5 feet
- Sewer lines (main)
20 feet
- Septic tank/tile field 50 feet
- Lakes, streams, surface water 50 feet
- Animal feedlots, barns, stables 50 feet
- Chemical, herbicide, pesticide and
petroleum storage or handling site 100 feet

Underground Storage Tanks

- Heating oil tanks are petroleum storage and must be 100 feet from the well.
- Propane tanks are not considered to be a groundwater contaminate source.
- “The further the better”

Does the well work?

- Pumps, tank, and piping are not regulated by DHEC.
- Well head is regulated must be sealed regardless of operation.
- Licensed Well Driller vs. Plumber

Water Quality

Health

- Bacteria
 - Total
 - Fecal
- Nitrate
- Lead
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

Taste and Odor

- Hydrogen Sulfide
- Iron
- Manganese
- Hardness
- Salinity

Water Quality, Private wells and SCDHEC

- SCDHEC does not regulate water quality or quantity in private wells
- Fecal contamination or sand may be a result of well construction
- Health issues may effect closing (HUD 5)
- Taste and Odor may effect sale (cosmetic)
- All can be treated!

Getting a New Well

- Finding a Well Driller
- Contract and paperwork
- Permitting
- Bacteria Sample with Residential well.

Finding a Well Driller

- Well drillers must be licensed and bonded through LLR. Find out at llr.state.sc.us license lookup under Environmental Certification Board or ask well inspector.
- Irrigation companies need certified driller.
- Shop around but “you get what you pay for”

Contract and Paperwork

- Use a contract; yours or the drillers
- Dry holes common in shallow and rock wells, you may have to pay and get a deep well.
- Warranty; well vs. tank and pump.
- Water quality is generally evaluated by the homeowner, who may call you first.

SCDHEC documentation

- Notice of Intent (NOI) - application for coverage under a general permit.
- Water Well Record – details construction of and use of the well. Submitted by driller within 30 days of well completion.
- Results of bacteria and metals/minerals samples analyzed by SCDHEC.

Permitting

- Obtain and Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Provides coverage under a General Permit
- \$70.00 for residential well
- \$50.00 for irrigation well
- Confirmation letter goes to whoever paid for the permit.

Notice of Intent

- Can be filled out by the Owner, Driller, or agent
- Triplicate Form: copy for SCDHEC, homeowner, and Driller.
- Driller must have copy on site
- 48 hour notice
- Instructions on the back of form.

Well Inspections

- New wells inspected at random
- Copy of inspection can be obtained from SCDHEC well inspector or Central Office
- Wells put in after 2000 may have been inspected
- Home inspectors should know what to look for and have proper sampling technique

Bacteria Sample

- \$20.00 for existing well
- Included in Residential well permit
- 7 to 10 day turnaround
- Must use SCDHEC bottle (instruction included)
- Disclaimer due to no control over sampling technique or chain of custody

Metal and Mineral Sample

- \$50.00
- At least 2 liter plastic bottle with screw on top.
- Lead and Nitrate included
- 6 to 8 week turnaround

Where do I get sample bottles and NOI forms?

- County Health Departments
- Counties that have Environmental Health Services Office
- Environmental Quality Control District Office
- SCDHEC Central Office (Columbia)
- NOI form is online at SCDHEC.NET/water, then groundwater on quick links and go to the private well program

Sample Location

- Take the sample at the wellhead whenever possible to isolate the well from the tank and piping.
- For wells that have been idle, allow to run as long as possible before collecting sample.
- Samples that cannot be taken at the wellhead should be taken as close to the wellhead as possible.



Goal

- Protect public health by ensuring that people can find out about their water quality
- Protect the groundwater resource by ensuring that wells are constructed properly